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FLOOR DEBATE

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Least we have enough at this point until we see.      And so I oppose the amendments, sadly actually.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE:    Thank you, Mr. President, members. Listen, I'm going to...I believe I'm going to oppose Senator Schrock's amendment as well to extend the deadline. I would support an amendment, if somebody was to run it, to correct what I feel we made a mistake on earlier, and that is if somebody is getting LB 536 money that they can't then qualify for LB 775 if they later choose to expand. My understanding is, in talking to Senator Baker and other people involved in this industry, is that there are about 28 or 29 pending applications for these credits in that they feel, these individuals feel, they'll have a plant up and going, producing a certain amount of ethanol by June 30 of 2004. And of those 28 or 29 applications, as I understand it, the likelihood is, is that there might be an additional four plants that will use a concept called a pilot still, where they'll bring in a still that's a smaller scale. They'll produce ethanol and then they'll either build around this pilot still or expand it somehow. I'm concerned, number one, we talked about this extensively, that what we have done is, through LB 536, is we have allowed four plants to be built, and again, I'm not criticizing the legality of those four plants, but what we have is we have four plants that were built by a company using largely non-Nebraska people, and I've harped on this so much you're probably all tired of hearing about it. I feel to a certain extent under LB 536 that we were...I don't want to say duped, but we were planning on some jobs that really have never materialized. Senator Landis and I met with the individual, and Senator Baker met with the individual that built these four plants and there were some Nebraska people that worked, that are workers of this company; very few, if any, bids were let out to allow other Nebraska people to work on these plants. So here's what I'm struggling with. We have four plants that are built under LB 536 that are either producing ethanol now or very, very close to producing ethanol. My understanding is there are another four plants that just possibly might be able to put in some sort of a pilot still, produce ethanol enough to qualify, and then later expand.      And